

No. R-325. House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of the Black Lives Matter Movement in the U.S. and Vermont Black communities.

(H.C.R.242)

Offered by: Representatives Christie of Hartford, Gonzalez of Winooski, Morris of Bennington, Ram of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Berry of Manchester, Bissonnette of Winooski, Burke of Brattleboro, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Conquest of Newbury, Dakin of Colchester, Dame of Essex, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Donahue of Northfield, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Fields of Bennington, Forguites of Springfield, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Grad of Moretown, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Komline of Dorset, Krebs of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Manwaring of Wilmington, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Murphy of Fairfax, O'Brien of Richmond, Olsen of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Patt of Worcester, Pearson of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Wood of Waterbury, Woodward of Johnson, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Zagar of Barnard

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Balint, Campbell, Campion, Nitka, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Snelling, White, and Zuckerman

Whereas, the murder of Trayvon Martin on February 26, 2012 in Florida sparked outrage in the Black community, and

Whereas, a strong perception following this homicide that the nation placed a low value on the lives of Black Americans led Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi, and Patrisse Cullors to form the Black Lives Matter movement (BLM), and

Whereas, BLM was formed to affirm Black Americans' humanity and resilience in the face of deadly oppression, and

Whereas, the killing of Michael Brown, 18 years of age, in Ferguson, Missouri, on August 9, 2014, ignited major growth in BLM, and

Whereas, the deaths of at least 102 unarmed Black Americans in 2015 reaffirmed the continuing crisis in the relationship between Black Americans and law enforcement officials, and

Whereas, BLM focuses its work on diversity, restorative justice, and being unapologetically Black, and

Whereas, the repeated incidents of violence against Black Americans have demonstrated the core reason that BLM was established, and

Whereas, BLM supporters in Vermont, who include members of all races, have stood in solidarity with this nationwide movement, and

Whereas, only 1.2 percent of Vermonters are Black and still face discrimination in many aspects of their daily lives, and

Whereas, the General Assembly has acknowledged the problems Black Vermonters encounter with public safety officials, and in 2012 and 2014, the General Assembly enacted legislation leading to the establishment of bias-free policing policies, and a greater law enforcement awareness and readiness to adopt those policies, and

Whereas, the Vermont Black Lives Matter movement has spurred a continuing dialogue to ensure that all Vermonters are guaranteed fundamental civil rights and equality, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of the Black Lives Matter Movement in the U.S. and Vermont Black communities, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Shela Linton, Ebony Nyoni, and Mark Hughes.